

FROM THE WRITINGS OF MOTHER
MARIA DEL CARMEN

- *I have to continuously stare at Him. It is as if I am hypnotized by Him, while I am drawn to follow Him, I do not realize that the road is rough and full of thorns.*



- *Mother of Christ Priest: Let us enter into the mysterious mystery of her "fiat" that made possible that priesthood of Christ; Of her motherhood, which will make it possible for us to reach our goal, according to God's will.*
- *What a mystery of love is the priest! His holiness is a demand of love. They are Christ by their priesthood, and they have to be Christ in their lives. He requests them in intimacy. Oh, Father, Sanctify them in the Truth!*
- *"Pro eis", because they are the builders of that Mystical Body that is Church; "Pro eis", because they are to vivify the Church with new children of God; "Pro eis," because they are other Christs who give their lives for souls, who with them are the Church.*

Newsletter

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Prayer

O God, Almighty Father, you bestowed a deep insight into the mystery of Christ the Priest on your daughter Maria del Carmen, who so moved by the Holy Spirit, gave up her life in prayer and offering for the sanctification of the priests and the Church. Grant us, through her intercession, the grace we humbly beg of you, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory)

*For private devotion. With ecclesiastical license
In accordance with the decree of Pope Urban VIII, in no way it is intended to prevent the judgment of the Church. This prayer does not have any purpose of public worship.*

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Maria del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes y Gómez was born in Madrid on September 3, 1913, and was baptized on the 20th of that month. From a young age, she felt the calling to consecrate herself to the Lord. In the outbreak of the Spanish civil war, during the bombing of the "Cuartel de la Montaña" (a military headquarters), July 20, 1936, while she was in a Capuchin Church she experienced an inner force that moved her to offer her life for the sake of priests. On April 25, 1938, after a retreat given under the direction of Don José María García Lahiguera, they both committed themselves to founding a congregation of the contemplative life, to prolong in the Church the 'Priestly Prayer' of Christ: «*I pray for them... And I consecrate myself for them*» (Jn. 17). The Congregation of Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest received Pontifical approval in 1967. Mother Maria del Carmen founded monasteries in Madrid, Salamanca, Zaragoza, Huelva, Moncada (Valencia), Javier (Navarra) and Oropesa (Toledo). She worked tirelessly, together with Don Jose Maria Garcia Lahiguera, so that the Feast of Christ the Priest might be included in the Liturgical calendar of the Church. She accomplished her offering, full of the peace and joy of saints on February 1st, 2001. Her remains lie in the Mother House of the Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest.

To report received graces or to deliver donations:

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Servant of God

**Madre Mª del Carmen
Hidalgo de Caviedes
y Gómez**

Founder of the
Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest

Moved by the Holy Spirit and through Mary, Mother of the Church

Years before the beginning of what became the Congregation of Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest, the early popes of the twentieth century had been giving indications on something that the Holy Spirit would remind with ever greater emphasis for the Church of these times, also through the charism received by Mother M^a del Carmen.

Pius X, in 1908, ended his Apostolic Exhortation *Haerent animo* on the sanctity of the clergy, by saying: *«With our eyes raised to heaven, we frequently pray for the whole clergy, repeating the words of Christ, our Lord: "Holy Father, sanctify them". It is a source of joy to us that we are joined in that prayer by very many from among the faithful of every condition who are concerned for your welfare and that of the Church; it is no less a source of joy that there are many generous souls, not only within the cloister but in the midst of the busy world, who offer themselves continuously as victims to God for the same object. May the Lord graciously deign to accept, as a sweet perfume, their pure and sublime prayers, and may he not refuse our own humble supplication».*

Pius XI, the Pope who instituted the feast of Christ the King in 1925 and who gave a great push in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was also the one who, in 1935, concluded his encyclical *Ad catholici sacerdotii* communicating the publication of a votive Mass of Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest, to perpetuate *the pious remembrance and glorification of that priesthood of which the one of all the priests of Jesus Christ is but a participation.*

M. M^a
del Carmen
in 1940



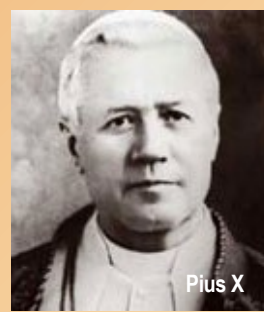
The soft breath of the Holy Spirit on the Church soon led M^a del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes to fix her contemplative gaze on the Heart of that Christ Priest, present in the world through his ministers. A new religious family was born from the inspiration she received. The co-founder D. José M^a García Lahiguera, in the first trials of foundation in 1939, called it "Priestly Work of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Eternal Priest, and of Mary Immaculate."

Yes, a work of Mary, because it was she, being a mirror reflecting her Son, who guided M^a del Carmen to understand her vocation: *"Christ, the expression of the Infinite Love of the Father; Eternal Priest, Glorifier of the Father; Realization of his immutable will. The soul is immersed there. In Him, expression of the Father's Love, I am eternally loved; In His Priesthood I am chosen; In Him my eternal aim is marked: Oblate. Mother"*.

The rich sensibility of M. Maria del Carmen, very like her feminine genius, allowed her to have a feeling of what was beating in the heart of Jesus Christ, especially at the moment of his supreme offering: *"Christ, in that intimate enclosure of the Cenacle, in that mystery of love at the last hours of his mortal life, expressed in his heartbeat: "I pray for them, I consecrate myself for them." "Oh, Father, keep in your name those whom you have given to me." "I do not ask that you take them out of the world ...", "Consecrate them in the truth ..." "Father, I pray for them ... and for those who will believe in me through their word" (cf. Jn 17)*

Those are exclamations of a priestly love that burns for the glory of the Father, for the fulfillment of his eternal plan of love in souls, in "them." "What does the heart of Christ feel? He makes them "another He" and they have to come to the reality that Christ alone is their life. And they are not immunized, because, without belonging to the world they are in it. They have to be in the world belonging to God; have to dedicate

themselves to souls without losing their permanence in God alone. That world of dangers, of struggles, of difficulties, of temptation, of a blurred path, of little support ... What does our heart answer today? "He loved them to the end" (Jn 13: 1) And as He truly loved them to the end, Christ repeats, offering us with him and in him: "Behold, I come to do your will, Father" (cf. Hb 10,7). "I pray for them and I consecrate myself for them" (cf. Jn 17,9,19).



Pius X

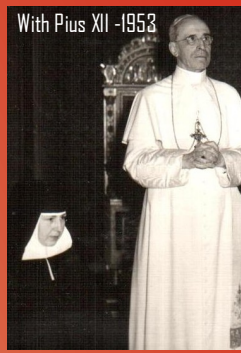


Pius XI

Mother Maria del Carmen appears as a prophetic figure, whose charisma would come to be confirmed by the teachings of the Church throughout the twentieth century.

Let us think about the Encyclical *Mediator Dei* of Pius XII, or the assertions of Second Vatican Council: *«Though they differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated: each of them in their own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ.» (LG 10).* Or in the words of John Paul II in *Mulieris dignitatem* 27: *«In the New Covenant there is only one sacrifice and only one priest: Christ. All the baptized share in the one priesthood of Christ, both men and women, inasmuch as they must present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (cf. Rom 12:1). This participation determines the organic unity of the Church with Christ, the "great mystery" described in the Letter to the Ephesians: the bride united to her Bridegroom; united, because she lives his life; united, because she shares in his threefold mission; united, because she shares in his threefold mission; united in such a manner as to respond with a "sincere gift" of self to the inexpressible gift of the love of the Bridegroom».*

Thus, in the face of the ministerial priesthood, called to represent Jesus Christ, Pastor, Head and Bridegroom of the Church, Mother Maria del Carmen understood her Oblate vocation in the light of Mary, the true *helper suited to him* (cf. Gen 2,18), to whom corresponds to personify the beautiful role of the Church Bride of Christ.



With Pius XII -1953



With Paul VI
1976



With John Paul II
1982

